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Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant
Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention
on Access to Information, Public Participation in
Decision-making and Access to Justice in
Environmental Matters

Working Group of the Parties

Sixth meeting

Geneva, 9 November 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9.30 a.m.
on Friday, 9 November 2018*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

* As part of the accreditation procedures for meetings at the United Nations Office at Geneva, delegates are requested to register online before 30 October 2018 through the following link: <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=TYbhtb>. Participants requiring a personal invitation letter for visa purposes should click on the "visa required" option and register for the meeting as early as possible, taking into account the period required to obtain the visa. Participants applying for financial support should both register and submit the completed financial support form to the secretariat by e-mail (public.participation@un.org) before 21 September 2018.

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2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.
3. Designation of national focal points.
4. Promotion and capacity-building:
 - (a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies;
 - (b) Subregional and national activities;
 - (c) Global promotion of the Protocol.
5. Compliance and reporting mechanisms.
6. Development of the Protocol.
7. Implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017 and 2018–2021, including financial matters.
8. Preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
9. Calendar of meetings.
10. Other business.
11. Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

Time: 9:30–9:40 a.m.

The Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters will be invited to adopt the agenda for its sixth meeting as set out in the present document.¹

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixth meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2018/1)

2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Time: 9:40–9:45 a.m.

The secretariat will inform participants regarding the status of ratification, acceptance and approval of and accession to the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on recent or anticipated developments in that regard. The current status of ratification of the Protocol may be consulted online.²

¹ All documentation for the meeting will be made available on a dedicated web page on the Protocol's website at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47194>

² <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ratification.html>.

3. Designation of national focal points

Time: 9:45–9:50 a.m.

The secretariat will inform the participants regarding the status of designation of national focal points. Delegations will be invited to report on any developments concerning the designation of national focal points.

4. Promotion and capacity-building

(a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies

Time: 9:50–10:30 a.m.

The Working Group of the Parties will consider potential areas for cooperation with partner organizations. In that connection, it will be informed of the relevant activities of, among others, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programmes for 2015–2017 and 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2018/3)

(b) Subregional and national activities

Time: 10:30–11:00 a.m.

Representatives of Parties, signatories, other interested States and stakeholders will inform the Working Group of subregional and national activities and share their views on outstanding needs and priorities for capacity-building in the area of pollutant release and transfer registers.

(c) Global promotion of the Protocol

Time: 11:00–11:05 a.m.

The Working Group will consider outcomes and provide feedback regarding the third joint Global Round Table on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, organized under the auspices of OECD and ECE and in cooperation with UNITAR and UNEP, to be held immediately prior to the sixth meeting of the Working Group on 7–8 November 2018.

5. Compliance and reporting mechanisms

Time: 11:05–11:15 a.m.

The Working Group will consider any developments with regard to the compliance mechanism and the status of submission of national implementation reports.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programmes for 2015–2017 and 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2018/3)

6. Development of the Protocol

Time: 11:15 am.–12:30 p.m. and 2:30–3:40 p.m.³

The Working Group will consider the outcome of the review of progress in implementing the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 and the Bureau's proposals for the future development of the Protocol and related activities.

Documentation

Progress in implementing the strategic plan for 2015–2020 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2018/5)

Development of the Protocol on Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2018/6)

Results of the 2018 survey on progress in implementing the strategic plan for 2015–2020 (PRTR/WG.1/2018/Inf.1)

Relevant references in official documents in relation to the implementation of the strategic plan for 2015–2020 (PRTR/WG.1/2018/Inf.2)

List of possible specific actions that could further the implementation of the Protocol and the strategic plan for 2015–2020 (PRTR/WG.1/2018/Inf.3)

7. Implementation of the work programmes for 2015–2017 and 2018–2021, including financial matters

Time: 3:40–4 p.m.

The Working Group will consider the status of implementation of the Protocol's work programmes for 2015–2017 and 2018–2021, including in relation to the strategic plan for 2015–2020.

The Working Group will be informed regarding the contributions received to support implementation of the Protocol's current work programme and the expenditures incurred during 2017 and projected for the period 2018–2019. Delegations will be invited to make pledges to support implementation of the work programme.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the work programmes for 2015–2017 and 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2018/3)

Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the Protocol's work programmes for 2015–2017 and 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2018/4)

8. Preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

Time: 4–4:05 p.m.

The Working Group will consider possible dates and venues for the fourth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, bearing in mind the requirement under article 17 of the

³ There will be a lunch break from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and a break to prepare decisions and outcomes from 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Protocol that ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties are to be held sequentially with or parallel to ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention unless otherwise decided by the Parties to the Protocol. In this regard, the Working Group of the Parties will be invited to take note of the tentative timing of the next session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, during the second part of June 2021, as agreed by the Working Group of the Parties to the Convention at its twenty-second meeting (Geneva, 19–21 June 2018).

9. Calendar of meetings

Time: 4:05–4:10 p.m.

The Working Group will be informed regarding the tentative calendar of meetings for 2019.

10. Other business

Time: 4:10–4:15 p.m.

Delegates wishing to suggest points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

11. Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting

Time: 4:45–5:30 p.m.⁴

The Working Group is expected to adopt the decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

⁴ To ensure equal opportunities for English-, French- and Russian-speaking delegations while saving paper, the draft text of the meeting decisions and outcomes will be projected on a screen about 30 minutes before the close of the meeting and presented orally by the Chair in English with interpretation into the other languages. The list of decisions will be distributed to participants by e-mail after the meeting.